

D1 interest and present in a host cell directs expression of said gene in a tissue-restricted manner;
and

(c) a cloning site for a gene of interest.

D2 11. (Amended Once) The self-replicating episomal DNA expression vector of claim 1, further comprising a eukaryotic transcription termination sequence placed between the LCR and the cloning site for a gene of interest and operative to prevent transcription therebetween.

12. (Twice Amended) A pair of vectors comprising a self-replicating episomal expression system for expressing a gene of interest extrachromosomally in a host cell of a specific tissue type, the pair of vectors comprising:

i. a first vector comprising

(a) a self-replicating origin of replication operative in mammalian host cells;

(b) an LCR, or component thereof, which when operatively linked to a gene of interest and present in a host cell directs expression of said gene in a tissue-restricted manner;

and (c) a cloning site for a gene of interest; and

ii. a second vector comprising

(a) said origin of replication; and

(b) a sequence encoding a replication protein, said replication protein being necessary for replication of said origin of replication.

D3 14. (Twice Amended) The pair of vectors of claim 12 wherein the component of an LCR is a component of the β -globin LCR consisting of HS3.

15. (Once Amended) The pair of vectors of claim 12 or claim 13 wherein the component of the LCR is the β -globin LCR excluding site HS2.

D4 23. (Once Amended) A method of obtaining persistent, tissue-specific expression of a gene of interest in a host cell in culture, comprising culturing a host cell transfected with the vector of claim 2 or the pair of vectors of claim 13.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 26, 2001. A